Cumberland Gap June 21st 1862

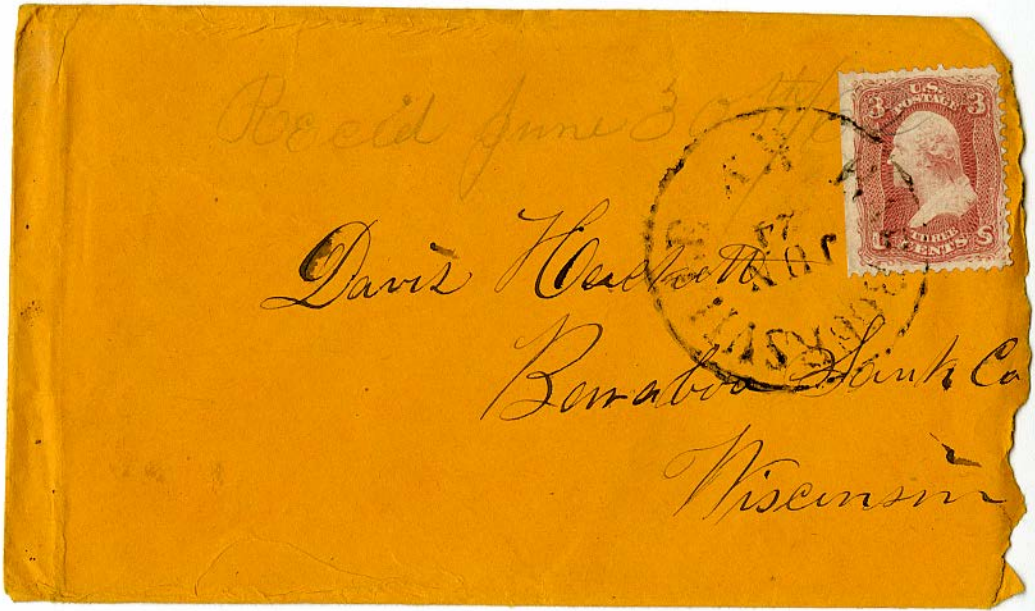
I improve the present opportunity to let you know that I am alive and well and better situated for taking comfort than I have been for a long time. We arrived here at the Gap in the evening of the 17th we left the first two weeks ago have been on the march pretty much ever since. we crossed the cumberland mountains about 20 miles from here and were coming up in their rear but they were coming enough not to be caught in their trap. they found out what we were doing and went off double quick. they left pretty much all of their tents, but they are of no account they are cut in strips about a foot wide. they burned up what provision they could not carry away. they left two of their largest guns some of which were thrown over the bluffs. I don't think we could ever have driven them from this position if they had defended it properly but the cowards fled.

Gen. Morgan paid us quite a compliment, we planted our flag on the heights and fired the last cannon.

We are encamped in the valley at the foot of the mountains I was out in the country yesterday about 8 miles. I and all the cherries I wanted to eat and brought in several chickens.

We have not had any mail since we left the East. I suppose we will get it to us pretty soon. I wonder much if we shall be spend the 4th of July here. if we do we will load some of the old mortars they left, and make the greatest noise that was ever heard in these parts. I have not time to write any more at present for the mail carrier is ready to start. I think is well. I will write again as soon as convenient

direct to Cumberland Gap. write soon.
give my respects to all the folks
E. L. Hackett


Rec'd June 30th
David Hall
Baraboo South Co
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